



“Building an Army”

—The structure of an 18th century army— Education Plan

Overview: Armies during the American Revolution were more structured and organized than we often give them credit for. Far from being unruly mobs or scattered groups of disorganized and poorly trained farmers with rifles and pitchforks, the United States did have well trained and disciplined soldiers. These men, Continental soldiers, were generally as skilled as their British opponents. In some cases, they had even more experienced than the British troops they faced. This activity will enable students to better understand the makeup of an army in the American Revolution, and thus begin to have an appreciation for the human cost of war.

Grades: 3rd – 8th

Time: 30 minutes

Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to name the three basic organizational levels of an 18th century army.
2. Students will be able to calculate the numbers of soldiers one would have encountered in a Revolutionary War army.
3. Students will begin to develop an appreciation for the vast numbers of soldiers that helped secure American independence.

Educational Standards

From the South Carolina Curriculum and Standards.

Social Studies

3-3.2, 4-3.3, 8-2.4

Math- Numbers and Operations

3I-A.2 & 7, 3II-A.1, 3III-A, 3III-B.2, 4II-C.1, 4II-D, 5II-A.1

Materials

- photocopies
- pencils
- scrap paper for calculations